

Dear Emergency Foster Care Provider,

I am writing to inform you of a change in policy being made to our agency's emergency foster care contract. Effective June 1, 2003, a child may not be placed in an emergency foster home for longer than 60 days, with no exceptions. Edits are being placed within the payment system to prevent the emergency payment rate of \$22.00 per day past the 60 day maximum. If a child reaches their 60 day time frame while still placed in the emergency foster home, payment will automatically be reduced to the traditional foster care rate. This includes any child already currently placed in an emergency foster placement. Therefore, at the 6-1-03 effective date, many children will have already exceeded their 60 day limit, and their maintenance rate will be automatically reduced to traditional foster care rate.

All local staff has been notified of this change, and a list was provided to each county of the children who will have already exceeded their 60 day limit as of 6-1-03. If you have a child in your home that will have reached this limit on 6-1-03, you will receive the emergency foster care rate for the month of May. Traditional rate will begin June 1<sup>st</sup> if the child continues to be placed in your home.

Enclosed please find an amendment to your contract for emergency foster care services. The policy changes explained above have been added to the new contract. Please sign and return the amendment to Division of Family Services, Contract Management, P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103 by June 16, 2003. All current contracts are due to expire on June 30, 2003. If we have not received your signed amendment by June 16, 2003, your contract will not be extended.

We appreciate your commitment to providing emergency foster care services for children in out-of-home care. You are often the first caregivers for these children during a frightening, difficult time in their lives. We feel fortunate to have such dedicated, nurturing providers willing to open their homes and hearts to these children.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your social service worker at your local Division of Family Services office.

Sincerely,

Denise Cross  
Director